

# **Pawtuxet River Authority and Watershed Council**

**8 Hope Furnace Road, Hope, RI 02831**

**401 615-7039 - [www.pawtuxet.org](http://www.pawtuxet.org)**

## **Monthly Board Meeting**

**PRA Office, Hope – November 5, 2012**

**Board Members Present: Bob Nero, Michael Brault, Jack Donovan, David Finnegan, Scott Goodinson, Rita Holahan (left at about 7:30), Ginny Leslie, Paul Lockett, Steve McAllister, Brian Manning, Bridget Skuce**

**Board Members Absent: Tara Digre, Jack Lancellotta (excused), Arthur Langlais, Mike Maddalena**

**Associate Members Present: Ross Adrain**

**Guest: Robert Barossi, graduate student at Green Mountain College (arrived 8:20)**

## **Call to Order/Approval of Agenda**

**Mr. Nero called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. A quorum was present. New Coventry board member Michael Brault was introduced. The agenda was distributed and on a motion by Mr. Goodinson, seconded by Mr. Lockett, it was approved with a change in the order of events to put the Treasurer's Report earlier.**

## **Approval of October 2012 Meeting Minutes**

**On a motion by Mr. Brault, seconded by Mr. Lockett, the board approved the minutes as submitted.**

## **Treasurer's Report**

**Ms. Holahan distributed copies of and reviewed the report, which included updates on the savings and checking accounts. Municipal payments were received from Cranston and Scituate. West Warwick and Warwick payments are still outstanding.**

## **By-law Committee Report**

**At the October 2012 meeting all by-law amendments were approved by the Board but a question remained re: use of proxies to establish a quorum via telephone or electronic means. Attorney D'Ovidio subsequently confirmed that proxies were permitted under RI General Laws only on a very limited basis (member on military duty or physically incapacitated). Ms. Holahan, therefore, recommended and the board agreed to omit the two sentences in Article V, Section C of the by-laws that provide for proxies. Ms. Holahan will email the revised bylaws to board members.**

## **Howard Conservation Area Land Sale**

**We have agreed to sell the 30' x 600' parcel to Gannon & Scott for \$20,000; they will assume the cost for our attorney's fees for the closing and the costs of the administrative subdivision. On a motion by Mr. Goodinson, seconded by Mr. McAllister, the board voted unanimously to approve the sale of the property at that price. Mr. Nero will meet with Gannon & Scott's surveyor this week.**

## **Arkwright to Harris Eagle Scout Project**

**This past weekend, a group of Boy Scouts from Crompton dismantled the severely damaged elevated pressure-treated wooden walkway at the Arkwright Riverwalk. There is an alternate route that the trail can take that is not in a stream. The Narragansett Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club is interested in re-using the material. Mr. Goodinson will look at the material to see if it could be used at the Norwood Conservation Area.**

## **Arcadia Fish Hatchery Clean-up**

**RI Department of Environmental Management has had a fish hatchery in the Arcadia Management Area near Browning Mill Pond that has not been used in many years. Several fishermen, including Messrs. Nero, Maddalena and Johnson, volunteered to work on the hatchery to get it in working order again; they cleared trees and other vegetation from several concrete pools. RIDEM may be able to provide fish for the Pawtuxet from this hatchery in the future.**

## **Vandalism at Veterans' Square – Update**

**Mr. Nero reviewed the theft of approximately \$1,100 of tools from the shed; he has been pursuing the matter with the West Warwick police and has contacted our insurance company. Mr. Brault offered to assist with the case.**

## **Repairs to Truck**

**The proposed repairs have been made and a leaking fuel tank was replaced for just under \$1,000. This work was supported through a generous donation from Veolia Water North America.**

### **Upper Pawtuxet Reservation Project (Old Kent Road property/former Sunrise Academy/Grant's Cabins) – Update**

**There are approximately 14 acres of property that cannot be developed; it is possible that the PRA could acquire this parcel and have the developable property sold for single family houses. Mr. Lockett pointed out that however many acres we acquire, we still have to find a match for a RIDEM grant.**

**Mr. Brault described a property in Marion, Massachusetts (Camp Hadley) that is on a pond; a private trust of members each pay a few hundred dollars a year to camp and fish on the property. On a motion by Mr. Brault, seconded by Mr. Manning, the board voted to form a subcommittee to visit the property in Massachusetts (a good friend of his is a member of the trust) as a possible model for the Scituate property. The subcommittee will consist of Messrs. Brault, Donovan, Manning, Nero and Adrain. Messrs. Maddalena and Johnson will be asked to join as well.**

### **Discussion with Narragansett Bay Estuary Program**

**Mr. Nero reviewed the history of the NBEP and described projects that they have worked on with the PRA, including the fish passage project at Pawtuxet Falls and the Roger Williams Park ponds project.**

**NBEP anticipates doing additional projects on the lower Pawtuxet and Mr. Nero raised concerns about ongoing coordination and communication between the two groups re: our respective project priorities.**

**Mr. Nero and Mr. Goodinson met with Mr. Ardito and Mr. Ribb of the NBEP and discussed ways to improve communications between the two organizations.**

### **New Business**

**Mr. Barrossi described his proposal to talk about volunteerism with PRA board members for his graduate thesis. He was provided with a meeting sign-up sheet with members' contact information.**

**Adjournment: On a motion by Mr. Lockett, seconded by Mr. Donovan, the board voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,    Ginny Leslie, Secretary**